

Houston Updates Application for Neighborhood Street Reconstruction

Council Member Anne Clutterbuck says that the City of Houston has finally updated the language on the official application for a city-sponsored Neighborhood Street Reconstruction project so that it reflects current city policy. The revised form removes a clause that stipulated that homeowners could be assessed for a portion of the costs associated with a street reconstruction project.

The City requires all neighborhoods that want residential street improvements to submit an official application, which includes a petition that must be signed by over 75% of the property owners. By signing the form, residents acknowledged that they were willing to be financially responsible for a share of the project.

Although the City has not enforced this policy for over ten years, the provision, which could allow the City to place a lien on a home abutting a street reconstruction project, remained on the petition form. Since entering office in 2006, Clutterbuck has advocated continuously for removal of the spurious legal language.

"As a lawyer, I think it is wrong for the City to continue to use con-

tractual language when we have no intention to employ or enforce it," said Clutterbuck.

"Moreover, the language created bad public policy. It put less affluent neighborhoods at a disadvantage, since lower-income residents could be dissuaded from requesting necessary improvements out of a fear of the costs involved. That is not an equitable way to distribute City resources and services."

The NSR program is coordinated by the Department of Public Works and Engineering and projects are funded through the Capital Improvement Plan. The updated petition form is available on-line on the Public Works website.

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Children's Book Sale

Families and teachers are invited to have fun finding great children's books at bargain prices at the Friends of the Houston Public Library's Children's Book Sale. The sale will feature more than 11,000 books for ages 2 to 18, and none priced higher than \$2 (with the exception of encyclopedias and other sets). All "easy" picture books as well as graphic novels and board books for babies will be \$1. The sale will take place in the Activities Building of the Resurrection Metropolitan Community Church, 2025 West 11th Street, 77008 at the intersection of T. C. Jester and W. 11th Street, Sept. 25 from 11 a.m.-6 p.m., Saturday, Sept. 26, from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Sunday, Sept. 27 from 1-5 p.m.

Seasonal Flu Shots Offered

Commissioner Steve Radack, Harris County Precinct Three, and the Christus Visiting Nurse Association of Houston are working together to offer free seasonal flu vaccines. Also offered is the Pneumonia immunization.

Seasonal flu vaccine is unlikely to provide protection against novel H1N1 influenza (swine flu).

Individuals presenting their Medicare Part B card will receive the vaccines free of charge. People without the Medicare Part B cards must pay \$20 for the flu shots and \$50 for pneumonia.

Registration is required by

phone or in person. To register, call the community center most convenient for you.

The schedule includes:

• **Tuesday, October 6, from 9 a.m.-noon**

Bayland Community Center
6400 Bissonnet Street
Houston, TX. 77074
(713)541-9951

• **Tuesday, October 13, 2009 from 9:00 - 12:00 PM**

Tracy Gee Community Center

3599 Westcenter Drive
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POPS

Parents Offering Parents Support meets the third Friday of every month from 6:30 - 9 p.m. to eat, talk about training children with a Christian perspective, and working through a book or video.

Prime Timers

Our senior adult ministry offers luncheons, field trips, health screenings, auto safety classes and more.

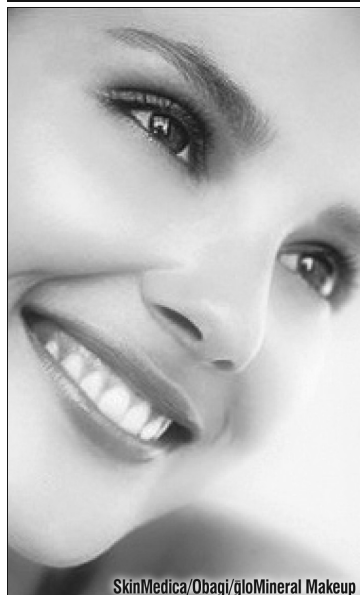
Habitat Team

The third Saturday of each month, the team carpools to a Habitat for Humanity worksite where they help give someone a hand by building a home!

To learn more about these and other activities,
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